

**ALTON TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 3RD APRIL 2024 AT 7.00PM AT THE TOWN HALL**

Present: **Councillor** **Annette Eyre (Town Mayor)**
 Matthew Bayliss
 Mark Boyce-Churn
 John Chubb
 Don Hammond
 Graham Hill
 Matthew Kellermann
 Janice Treacher
 Peter Wadman

In attendance: **Pat Harris** - **Town Clerk**
 Samantha Brown - **Admin/Councillor Support Officer**

2 Members of the public
County Councillor Andrew Joy

117 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Nick O'Brien, Barbara Tansey and Jonathan Waugh.

118 Town Mayor's Announcements

The Town Mayor:

- 1) Welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 2) Confirmed that the joint correspondence received from Jerry Janes and District Councillor Ginny Boxall had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting and a subsequent meeting would be arranged.

119 Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 6th March 2024

On the proposal of Councillor Matthew Bayliss, seconded by Councillor Matthew Kellermann, it was

**RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Full Council meeting
held on 6th March 2024**

All in favour

120 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations

Councillor Graham Hill declared "I have sought the views of the Deputy Monitoring Officer at EHDC and I wish to make the following declaration of interest: For the Neighbourhood Plan, item 7, I declare a non-pecuniary interest in that I am the

nominated Town Councillor member of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. This group has already made recommendations to the Town Council. To avoid any possible conflict of interest I therefore will not be participating in the discussion and will be abstaining on this item.”

121 **Correspondence Received and Questions to the Council**

A letter from Jerry Janes and District Councillor Ginny Boxall regarding agenda item 7 was noted. It was agreed by Councillors that it would be prudent to invite Thames Water to a pre-meeting briefing before a future Full Council meeting.

122 **Event grant Application: Alton Art Society**

On the proposal of Councillor Annette Eyre, seconded by Councillor Don Hammond, it was

RESOLVED

To approve the Event Grant Application to the Art Society in the sum of £250 (two hundred and fifty pounds)

All in favour

123 **Neighbourhood Plan – To approve the removal of site allocations from the Plan**

Members discussed at length the merits in removing site allocations from the Plan with Mr Heelis providing appropriate comment and responses. Members agreed that in order to make a decision as to site allocations it would require building on greenfield sites and therefore, they would need to defer the item and bring it back to the next Full Council, 1st May. However, the Town Clerk referred to Standing Orders stating that seven Councillors would need to write formally to her requesting a reversal of a Resolution should Council wish to agree to the development of greenfield sites and that such a request must be received, a minimum of five days before the 1st May Full Council.

On the proposal of Councillor Bayliss, seconded by Councillor Mark Boyce-Churn, it was agreed to

DEFER

The Alton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group’s removal of the site allocations from the Alton Neighbourhood Plan until the next Full Council, 1st May 2024.

In favour – Councillors Bayliss, Boyce-Churn, Chubb, Eyre, Hammond, Kellermann, Treacher and Wadman.

Abstained – Councillor Hill

124 **Accounts to 31st March 2024**

On the proposal of Councillor Hill, seconded by Councillor Bayliss, it was

RESOLVED**to approve**

- 1) The balance sheet dated 31st March 2024**
- 2) The Income and Expenditure account to 31st March 2024**
- 3) The bank reconciliations for the Unity Account and the CCLA Deposit Account**
- 4) The Payments over £500 covering 1st January -31st March 2024**
- 5) The variable Direct Debit in favour of Southern Communications Group for the Council's mobile phones**

All in favour

125 **Draft Policy for Co-option to the Council**

Councillor Kellermann objected to 3.3 (ii) of the Draft Policy stating, "That the wording of 3.3 (ii) is: vague in nature, open to wide interpretation and predicated by an assumption that Councillors might be tempted to act contrary to the "Nolan Principles" (and thus break the extant Code of Conduct) when casting their votes. Furthermore, it must be noted that voting for the Co-option of relatives or individuals with whom a Councillor has "connections" is not prohibited by NALC Legal Topic 08 – cited as being the basis for this policy. Therefore, this amendment suggests that 3.3 (ii), is struck from the motion."

Councillors considered in depth the Policy and proposed the following amendments:

- 1) To remove 3.3 (ii) in its entirety
- or
- 2) To add "business" in front of connections in 3.3 ii.

The vote for the two above proposed amendments were as follows:-

For:-

- 1) To remove 3.3 (ii) in its entirety:- Councillors Kellermann and Hill
- 2) To add the word "business" in front of connections in 3.3 (ii):- Councillors Bayliss, Boyce-Churn, Chubb, Eyre, Hammond, Treacher and Wadman

Therefore, on the proposal of Councillor Hammond, seconded by Councillor Treacher, it was

RESOLVED**to amend the draft Co-option to the Council Policy to add "business" in front of connections in 3.3 ii.**

In favour – Councillors Bayliss, Boyce-Churn, Chubb, Eyre, Hammond, Hill, Treacher and Wadman.

Against – Councillor Kellermann

126 **Fees and Charges for Hiring of Sports Facilities 2024/25 season**

On the proposal of Councillor Chubb, seconded by Councillor Hammond, it was

RESOLVED

To endorse an increase of 3% in its pitch hire fees as per the charges table in Appendix A

All in favour

127 **Landlord's Consent: External and Internal Upgrades to the Alton Rugby Club Clubhouse in Anstey Park**

On the proposal of Councillor Bayliss, seconded by Councillor Hill, it was

RESOLVED

to grant Landlord's Consent to allow Alton Rugby Club to carry out the improvements requested by:

- i) installing new heating and air conditioning units to the inside of the clubhouse**
- ii) renewing the soffits and guttering on the clubhouse**

All in favour

128 **To receive a Report from and ask questions of the County Council and District Council Representatives**

District Councillor Warren Moore was unable to attend the meeting due to last minute work commitments, however, a written report received just prior to the start of the meeting will be circulated to Councillors and was noted.

County Councillor Andrew Joy gave the following verbal report:

- Advised that the Highways Department continues to increase road repairs throughout the County, this is however, being hampered by the amount of rain over the last few months. He added staff and resources are limited but wanted to reassure Councillors progress is being made. Councillor Joy commented that he was appalled at the standard of recent reinstatements by various utility companies adding that the County Council has a 'six month window' to go back to the companies to rectify the repairs.
- There is still a major concern over the possible closure of the Curtis Museum with the loss of volunteers, especially as the Alton 'volunteer model' was adopted County-wide with Hampshire Culture Trust many years ago.

- Councillor Joy thanked the Town Clerk for the Town Council's very measured and considered response to the County Council's Future Services Consultation which he found was a helpful and welcomed response.

129 **Hampshire County Council Future Services Consultation 2024 – To retrospectively endorse Alton Town Council's response**

Councillor Bayliss thanked the Town Clerk for the comprehensive response to the Consultation which was supported by six Councillors.

On the proposal of Councillor Bayliss, seconded by Councillor Hammond, it was

RESOLVED

to formally endorse the response to the Hampshire County Council Future Services Consultation 2024 as tabled being amended to being on behalf of the Town Council

In favour – Councillors Bayliss, Boyce-Churn, Chubb, Eyre, Hammond, Hill, Treacher and Wadman.

Against – Councillor Kellermann

130 **Kings Arms Report**

The report from the Kings Arms had been circulated to Councillors in advance of the meeting and was noted.

The meeting closed at 9:00pm.